



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 5, 2007

### **New Warning Signs for Indiana Work Zones Unveiled**

*Motorists who break work zone laws face stiff fines and possible jail time*

INDIANAPOLIS –Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Chief of Staff Gilbert Viets joined families of fallen highway workers, law enforcement officers and work zone safety advocates at the Super 70 project site today to unveil new signs warning motorists that breaking a tough new work zone law will result in stiff fines and possible jail time.

“The new law sends a clear message to those who make the risky decision to speed and drive recklessly through Indiana’s highway work zones,” said Viets. “Motorists must understand their dangerous driving puts the lives of other motorists and our Indiana highway workers at risk, and that this behavior will simply not be tolerated. With record-breaking highway construction going on around the state thanks to Major Moves, this message is more important now than ever before.”

Under the new work zone law, first time citations for speeding in a work zone will result in a \$300 fine. If drivers still don’t get the message to slow down, they’ll be fined \$500 for a second offense and \$1,000 for a third offense within three years. Motorists who drive recklessly or aggressively through a work zone face fines up to \$5,000. Drivers who injure or kill a highway worker may find themselves paying a \$10,000 fine or serving up to eight years behind bars. Fines generated from the new work zone law will be used to fund additional work zone patrols.

“While nothing we do will bring my brother back, it is my sincere hope these warning signs will save the lives of other highway workers,” said Matt Hutt, brother of fallen highway worker Chris Hutt. “Motorists must understand when they put a highway worker’s life at risk, they’re risking the lives of someone’s sister or brother, son or daughter and mother or father.”

To alert drivers to the new law, signs will be posted around the state warning motorists of the tougher penalties. The signs will read “Speeding Max \$1,000, Reckless Driving Max 8 Years.” The signs will be posted in advance of all state highway work zones, state maintenance work zones and municipal work zones.

The new work zone penalties were established by this year’s General Assembly in House Bill 1623 and signed into law by Governor Mitch Daniels on May 22. The law is designed to protect both Indiana highway workers and Hoosier motorists. Four out of five people killed in highway work zones are motorists. In 2006, 14 people were killed and 636 were injured in Indiana’s highway work zones.

The new work zone law comes at a time when the number of work zones in Indiana is at an all-time high because of Daniels’ innovative Major Moves construction program. Major Moves fully funds a

decade of critical highway projects in Indiana. When Major Moves is complete in 2015, more than 200 new construction and 200 major highway preservation projects will have been built.

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\*Photos and fact sheets available upon request